

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system, said information processing apparatus comprising:

management means for managing information of ~~the plurality of shared devices present in the network system~~ a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of ~~the plurality of shared devices~~ a second shared device used by the other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of the ~~plurality of shared devices~~ second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition;

recognition means for recognizing which one of the ~~plurality of first and second~~ shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means;

renewal means for updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the ~~second~~ shared device ~~used by the other information processing apparatus~~ in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means; and

display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected

condition of the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the plurality of shared devices first shared device managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means.

Claim 2. (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 3. (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 5 and 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing method managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, to each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system, said method comprising:

a management step, of managing information of ~~the plurality of shared devices present in the network system~~ a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;

a reception step, of receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of ~~the plurality of shared devices~~ a second shared device used by the other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of the ~~plurality of shared devices~~ second shared device including an updated status and a connected condition;

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the ~~plurality of~~ first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received in said reception step;

a renewal step, of updating the information on the status of a connected condition of the second shared device ~~used by the other information processing apparatus~~ in accordance

with a recognition result made in said recognition step; and

a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated in said renewal step and the information of the ~~plurality of shared devices~~ first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus in said management step on a same screen of the display means.

Claim 10. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 11. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 12. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes, at a log-on operation to the network system, automatically receiving the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 13 and 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step includes, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, invalidating the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system, said information processing program comprising:

code for a management step, of managing information of the plurality of shared devices present in the network system, a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;

code for a reception step, of receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of the plurality of shared devices a second shared device used by the other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of the plurality of shared devices second shared device including an updated status and a connected condition;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said code for the reception step;

code for a renewal step, of updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device used by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by said code for the recognition step; and

code for a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status or connected condition of the second shared device updated by said code for the renewal step and the information of the plurality of shared devices first shared device managed by said code for the management step on a same screen of the display means.

Claim 18. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 19. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes, at a log-on operation to the network system, code for automatically receiving the information of the plurality of shared devices present in the network system.

Claims 21 and 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the renewal step includes, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, code for invalidating the information of the shared of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and managing a plurality of shared devices, said apparatus comprising:

management means for managing information of ~~plurality of shared devices~~ a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus;

obtaining means for obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of ~~a plurality of devices~~ second shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus;

recognition means for recognizing which one of the ~~plurality of~~ first and second devices ~~managed by the other information processing apparatus~~ has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing

apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by said information processing apparatus first shared device in accordance with the information managed by said management means.

Claim 26. (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 27. (currently amended): An information processing method of an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and for managing a plurality of shared devices, said method comprising:

a management step, of managing information of a plurality of shared devices first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;

an obtaining step, of obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a plurality of devices second shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus;

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of first and second shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by the other processing apparatus second shared device, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus first shared device in accordance with the information managed in said management step.

Claim 28. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, in which said display step includes displaying on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 29. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and for managing a plurality of shared devices, said program comprising:

code for a management step, of managing information of a plurality of shared devices first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a plurality of devices second shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of first and second devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said

code for the obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of a ~~plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus~~ second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said code for the recognition step, and information on a status or a connected condition of the ~~plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus~~ first shared device in accordance with the information managed by said code for the management step.

Claim 30. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 29, in which said display step includes displaying information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.